

HOUSE No. 625

By Mr. Travis of Rehoboth, petition of Philip Travis relative to the defense of tape recording certain meetings. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT PROTECTING CITIZENS ACTING IN SUPPORT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

- 1 Section 99 of Chapter 272 of the General Laws, as appearing in
- 2 the 2004 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding a new
- 3 paragraph after paragraph D.1.f.:—
- 4 It shall be an affirmative defense that a citizen who tape
- 5 recorded a non-public meeting did so in the belief that it was nec-
- 6 essary to document the commission of a crime. Tape recording of
- 7 a public meeting is not prohibited.